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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Alaska Longspur in California.—On October 2, 1909, I was hunting rails in the tide marshes of False Bay, San Diego County, California. At the edge of the marsh I saw a sparrow on the *Salicornia* that looked like a lark finch in molt. As this was so unusual a place for that species I flushed the bird. It rose to some height but soon came down alighting near the place from which it started. In flight it showed so little white in the tail that I followed it to observe it further, when it flew again, passing over me and alighting in weeds at the foot of the slope outside the *Salicornia*, where I shot it. The bird was an adult female in winter plumage, and has been identified by Robert Ridgway as the Alaska Longspur, *Calcarius lapponicus alascensis*. I believe this is the most southern record for the Pacific coast.—FRANK STEPHENS.

Limonites ruficollis (Pall.) as an American Bird.—In the September number of *THE CONDOR* I see an interesting record by Mr. John E. Thayer of *Limonites ruficollis* (Pall.) breeding in Alaska, at Nome.

When working over the second part of my Russian work on "The Limicolae of the Russian Empire" (sub-family *Tringinae*), I went in 1903 to Warszawa, Poland, as some questions could not be properly resolved without examining skins that served the late Dr. L. Taczanowski for his "Faune Ornithologique de la Sibirie Orientale". Here in the ornithological museum of Count X. Branicki, especially rich in South American skins, I found, among specimens of *L. minutilla* (Vieill.), an adult sandpiper in full winter dress, labelled "Tr. pusilla, Wilson. America septentrionalis."

As I had just minutely studied a large number of *Tringinae* and their allies, including *Ereunetes*, the identification of this skin presented no difficulties: it was a specimen of *Limonites ruficollis* (Pall.). The history of this specimen could not be traced, but as it was bought from a dealer, and the first known American specimen of *L. ruficollis* of course could fetch a much higher price than so common a bird as *Ereunetes pusillus* (L.), there could be no possible fraud.

Dimensions of this specimen are: wing, 102.5 mm.; tail, 43; exposed culmen, 18; tarsus, 19; middle toe with nail, 20. The shaft of the first primary does not differ in coloring from the several next ones, all being brownish near the bases and at tips, and whitish in pre-apical parts; lower throat quite unstreaked; feet, of course, not webbed, black.

This fact was recorded in my work "Limicolae of the Russian Empire" Pt. II, p. 133, Moskva, 1905.—S. A. BUTURLIN.

Additions to Grinnell's List of Birds of the San Bernardino Mountains.—*Porzana carolina*. Sora Rail. I saw one of this species which was shot by a camper at Bear Lake, June 20, 1907.

Columba fasciata. Band-tailed Pigeon. During the first half of June, 1906, I found the Wild Pigeon not rare around Mountain Home and in the Santa Ana Canyon up to about 8000 feet.

Asio wilsonianus. Long-eared Owl. I have a female of this species which I took near Bear Lake at about 7000 feet elevation, June 15, 1907.

Tyrannus verticalis. Western Kingbird. I took an adult male of this species at the east end of Bear Lake, June 24, 1907.

Baeolophus inornatus murinus. San Diego Titmouse. I saw a pair of this species feeding young near Seven Oaks, June 12, 1906.

Chondestes grammacus strigatus. Western Lark Sparrow. I found a nest of this species containing four young, on the ground near Bear Lake, June 16, 1907.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird. This species, altho not so common as the Western Bluebird, was breeding commonly in the timber around Bear Lake in June, 1907.—G. WILLETT.

The Pectoral Sandpiper at Santa Barbara.—On the morning of September 17, 1909, I found and watched at my leisure a single bird of this species (*Pisobia maculata*), feeding in and about some small muddy pools here at Santa Barbara. The next day it was still there, and after some time another one walked into sight from behind a bunch of reeds. This second bird was more brightly buff on the breast than the first—a younger bird, I suppose. Number one would not allow number two to remain beside it, but chased it away as often as it approached, sometimes on the wing, sometimes on foot. Then both birds, once more well separated, resumed their feeding. In the same place were three Northern Phalaropes, a Greater Yellow-legs, a Green Heron, a Spotted Sandpiper, and a mixed flock of Western and Least Sandpipers, all more or less pestered by a flock of Brewer Blackbirds. The Pectoral Sandpipers, feeding, bathing, and preening their feathers by turns, allowed me the closest kind of approach, in a perfect light, so that all details were abundantly seen: the greenish legs, the parti-colored bill, the black rump, and the immac-

ulate chin. It was perhaps ten years since my last sight of birds of their kind—at Ipswich, Massachusetts—and naturally I observed them with much interest. They neither bobbed nor teetered, but had a plover-like trick of half squatting, or crouching, when startled. In running, and now and then when standing still, they assumed a peculiarly erect attitude, which gave them the appearance of being, for sandpipers, uncommonly long-necked.

On September 20, three birds were present, and on the 21st and 23rd a single bird was seen.

In Mr. Grinnell's Check-List of California Birds, 1902, the status of the Pectoral Sandpiper is given as "rare migrant; known only from the record of J. G. Cooper of its occurrence at San Francisco Bay"; and Messrs. Dawson and Bowles, in their Birds of Washington, mark it as "casual during migrations."—BRADFORD TORREY.

An Albino Magpie.—The accompanying half-tone is from a photo of a remarkably fine mounted specimen of an albino Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*). This bird was one of two albino birds, in a brood the balance of which was normal in every respect.

The other albino bird was captured and kept in captivity by Mr. Brown of Littleton for some time. It was very wild even after being in captivity for some time, and repeated attempts to secure a satisfactory picture of the live bird failed.



Fig. 16. ALBINO MAGPIE, ONE OF TWO IN AN OTHERWISE NORMAL BROOD, IN COLORADO

In color both birds were pure white save for a slight creamy tint which may have been due to soiled plumage. The bird photographed was mounted by Jonas Brothers, Taxidermists, of Denver.—R. B. ROCKWELL.

Notes from Sacaton, Arizona.—October 25, 1909, I noticed a flock of about 75 small birds flying above a field of grass and alfalfa. At first glance I thought they were House Finches in a fall flock, but the distance was several hundred feet and their actions were not orthodox for the finches or linnets. The flock remained in one spot too long, and other indefinite indications made me question their identity. While watching them a Cooper Hawk gave chase and secured one of the birds in mid-air. I secured a gun and went back to the field for a specimen. They allowed me to approach very near before taking flight, as close as twenty feet in some cases. While on the ground they were very hard to distinguish, as the grass clumps were about dry and the birds remained motionless when I got near them. One was at last seen distinctly, and a shot brought down that one and another near by but unseen. A peculiarity which impressed me was the fact that the whole flock did not rise at once, but as I approached close enough a few would fly at a time. As they would wheel in the air the white of the tail showed in a striking manner. Three were obtained and identified as Chestnut-collared Longspurs (*Calcarius ornatus*) in winter dress.

Last March, the 28th, a friend brought me a live Yellow Rail (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*). He had caught it out on the desert about eight miles west of Sacaton and several miles from water. As I was flat on my back suffering with erysipelas I was unable to do anything with the bird, and the man released it on the bank of a small stream.

October 29 I heard a new bird note in some cottonwoods along an irrigating ditch, and at once thought *Chickadee!* But the note was not the same and had a suggestion of Pipit about it. I heard it several days before the bird was seen, a short sight of him one day being sufficient to call him Bridled Titmouse (*Baeolophus wollweberi*). For two weeks I heard the notes nearly every day but only twice was the bird seen. November 10, the song was heard in some Baccharis along a small stream and two of the birds seen. My gun was along that day and the two birds were secured and identification made sure. In a residence here of more than two years this is the first time this bird has been seen or heard, so it is not of common occurrence.

The Red-eyed Cowbird which I recorded in THE CONDOR for September, 1909, as *Tangavius aeneus involucratus* has been submitted to Mr. Wells W. Cooke, of the Biological Survey, who pronounces it *Tangavius aeneus aeneus*, similar to the form from Western Mexico, and an addition to the A. O. U. Check-List. These birds remained around Sacaton up to the middle of August when I left for California. On my return, September 21, I looked for them, but without success.—M. FRENCH GILMAN.

Mortality Among Young Hummingbirds.—During the time that I was able to devote to field work in the spring of 1908, I found fourteen Hummingbirds' nests that I was able to keep track of. Almost all of these were near Santa Barbara, and were chiefly of the Black-chinned (*Archilochus alexandri*), with a few Allen (*Selasphorus alleni*). Of these, five either were destroyed by some unknown cause, or, as in the case of two of them, the eggs were deserted. Of the remaining nine nests, only one brood was successfully reared. In every other case did I discover the young hummers dead at an average age of four or five days. Seven of these nests were placed over the dry bed of a certain stream near Santa Barbara, so I am unable to judge whether their deaths were due only to some local cause or otherwise. The weather was good during this time, so the only solution that I can see to the problem, is that the young birds may have been fed on the dead insects gotten by their parents from flowers that had been sprayed with poison. This is only a guess of course. Has any one else discovered a large mortality among young hummers in the State during the past year or two?—A. B. HOWELL.

The True Home of the Spectacled Eider.—*Arctonetta fischeri* (Brandt) is commonly treated as a "rare American bird". Indeed the bird is rare in America, as northwestern Alaska just touches the outskirts of the true breeding range of this handsome bird.

In 1905 I spent a year in northeastern Siberia, and satisfied myself that between the mouths of Indigirka (about 148° E. of Greenwich) and Chauna bays (about 172° E.) *Arctonetta fischeri* is actually the commonest of all the Eiders (tho *Somateria spectabilis* is also numerous, and *Heniconetta stelleri* not rare). Farther east and west it becomes scarce, tho it attains to the mouth of the Jana, and the New Siberian Archipelago, and northwestern Alaska.—S. A. BUTURLIN.

Rodgers Fulmar in Southern California.—I have two specimens of *Fulmarus rogersi* which I found dead on the sand near Sunset Beach, Orange County, March 1, 1908. Several others were seen at the same time in different stages of decomposition. This species is probably a regular migrant along our coast, well out at sea.—G. WILLETT.

The Scott Oriole in Los Angeles County.—This large oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) occurs as a fairly common summer visitant to the desert on the northeast side of the San Gabriel mountains. June 20 to 23, 1904, I found it common in the tree-yucca belt near Fairmont, in Antelope Valley. The orioles were then in full song and were doubtless nesting in the immediate vicinity. The song was loud and full, better than that of the Bullock Oriole. It reminded me of the best efforts of the latter bird, and yet bore a strong resemblance in its quality to the song of the Western Meadowlark. An apricot orchard near Fairmont was freely patronized by the Scott Orioles from the neighboring yuccas. Two shot there had their gullets distended and faces smeared with apricot pulp.

The Scott Oriole seems to occur only as a straggler on the Pacific slope of the County. We have so far but three records, two of occurrences in spring and one in late fall, all of male birds. Mr. H. S. Swarth saw one near Los Angeles on April 19, 1895. Mrs. Hilda Wood Grinnell procured one, original number 54, now in the Grinnell collection, shot by her brother from an olive tree at Glendora, May 6, 1904. Mr. W. B. Judson secured a specimen on November 2, 1903, near the sign-board station of Garnsey in the southern part of the San Fernando Valley. This specimen is now no. 4191 of the Swarth collection.

In view of the above instances it would not be surprising if the Scott Oriole should be found to occasionally remain all summer in some of the hot, Lower Sonoran washes along the southern base of the mountains.—J. GRINNELL.